**Body Paragraphs**

A body paragraph should explain and support the thesis statement you have set out in your introduction. In order to form your body paragraphs, you need to include the following:

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| POINT  (or **Topic sentence**) | What is the main idea in your paragraph? (What POINT are you making?) All other sentences relate in some way to the topic sentence. | * Firstly… * Arguably… * The writer uses… * A technique used is… * In contrast… * Similarly… |
| EVIDENCE | How do you know that your POINT is correct? (Provide EVIDENCE for your claims) | * For example… * This is shown when… * We know this because… * This is evident in… |
| EXPLAIN | Why have you chosen that example as EVIDENCE? What technique has the writer used? What effect does it have? (Make sure you EXPLAIN yourself!) | * This shows… * From this we can infer… * This is effective because… * The writer uses this technique because/to |

​**EXAMPLE:** Look at the following paragraph on Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* and notice how the use of evidence and the explanation is always relevant to the point, so each sentence refers back to the first:

*Romeo and Juliet were destined to suffer a sad ending (****POINT****). In Romeo and Juliet William, Shakespeare wrote in the Prologue, “a pair of star-crossed lovers take their life” (****EVIDENCE****). Shakespeare told the readers from the beginning that the couple would die. It was his intention to confirm that the young couple were doomed from the very beginning, that everything would work against them and that their relationship would end in tragedy (****EXPLANATION****).*

**Note** – You must state where your evidence comes from and when directly quoting an author or character you must use “quotation” marks.

**ACTIVITY:** The following paragraph is taken from an essay on *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck. Number the sentences 1-4 so they follow the POINT, EVIDENCE, EXPLANATION format:

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| An example of how suspicious they are about others is when “George said quickly, "Don't tell nobody about it. Jus' us three an' nobody else. They li'ble to can us so we can't make no stake.”(p.67). |
| Suspicion and lack of trust means that the men rather than helping each other achieve their dreams, can ruin their chances for one another. |
| This reveals that not only are the workers not likely to achieve their goals because of their own circumstances but also that others may intervene to stop them from attaining their dreams. |
| The readers do not know how well founded George’s suspicions are, but this phrase makes us feel that their dream could be in danger from others, and we understand their need to protect it and keep it to themselves. |

Write your own body paragraph based on the essay question you have been working on.